

GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

September 1, 2005

California Recovery Happens

On behalf of all Californians, I am delighted to offer my congratulations to individuals who are in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction and all those in the treatment field who have been critical to their success.

Alcoholism and drug addiction are significant public health concerns affecting every member of society. The high medical, criminal justice and economic implications of addiction are estimated to cost \$365 billion a year in the United States and \$44 billion each year in California.

Alcoholism and drug addiction are chronic conditions that can be successfully prevented and treated. In the last fiscal year, over 364,000 Californians sought help for substance abuse treatment and on any given day in California, there are over 144,000 clients in treatment.

Studies show that every dollar spent on treatment saves Californians \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice, and health care costs. When individuals enter a drug free lifestyle, they become productive members of society, helping to curb incidences of crime, emergency-related health care, unemployment, and child and spousal abuse.

Again, I offer my congratulations for the hard work and dedication of all people in recovery. And I commend the team of dedicated treatment professionals and community leaders who have joined forces to help Californians lead healthy, productive lives.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger